

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00955 211133Z

44

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 PRS-01

OPR-01 SY-02 USIA-04 L-02 SSO-00 RSR-01 /070 W

----- 020482

P QVQQQPTZ JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0332

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0955

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR LY EG

SUBJ: TRIPOLI STATUS REPORT

REF: FBIS M201939H

1. JULY 20 TRIPOLI APPEARED NORMAL FOR A HOT FRIDAY, EXCEPT FOR DEMONSTRATIONS BY A GROUP OF ABOUT 1,000 EGYPTIANS IN FAVOR OF UNITY. THEY GATHERED AT EGYPTIAN RELATIONS OFFICE (EMBASSY) AND, NOT TO BE OUTDONE BY THE LIBYANS, PRESENTED CHARGE WITH PETITION WRITTEN IN BLOOD. AFTER CHARGE PREDICTABLY ASSURED THEM GOE ALL IN FAVOR OF UNITY, THE GROUP DISSIPATED TO BUY WATERMELONS. HOWEVER, THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED LATER MARCHED DOWNTOWN CHANTING "UNITY AND ABDUL NASSER" IN RESPONSE TO CHEERLEADERS.

2. EVENING JULY 20 I HAPPENED TO BE FELLOW GUEST OF EGYPTIAN CHARGE AT SMALL DINNER. AFTER WEVCCOG CALLED OUT TO RECEIVE PHONE CALLS, WE COMPARED NOTES. TWO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00955 211133Z

POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED: QADHAFI'S REPLY TO JULY 20 TO SADAT'S LATEST PLEA TO CONTROL THE MOTORCADE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A REQUEST THAT THE REPLY BE BROADCAST BY THE GOE (OR SO THE CHARGE SAID). SECONDLY, THE DATE OF QADHAFI'S RESIGNATION FROM THE RCC, GIVEN IN HIS REPLY AS BROADCAST BY CAIRO AS JULY 11, WAS ACTUALLY JUNE 11 IN THE ORIGINAL. (JUNE 11 WAS THE LAST OF TWO DAYS OF ANNOUNCED SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON UNITY BETWEEN SADAT AND QADHAFI AT TRIPOLI, AS WELL AS THE DAY THEY EACH REVEALED BY SILENCE IN THEIR AMERICAN EVACUATION DAY SPEECHES THAT ALL WAS NOT GOING WELL RE UNITY.)

3. COMMENT: JUNE 11 MAKES MORE SENSE THAN JULY 11, AS THE NEXT SENTENCE IN QADHAFI'S REPLY WAS "I EMPHASIZED THIS (HIS RESIGNATION) TO YOU REPEATEDLY IN CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA," ETC. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE REASON FOR QADHAFI'S RESIGNATION AS EARLY AS JUNE 11, EGYPTIAN CHARGE WAS OBSCURE, AND DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF IT AT THE TIME, BUT AGREED WITH ME THAT PERHAPS QADHAFI WAS NOW SAYING IN EFFECT "CONSIDER THAT I HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE PICUTURE SINCE JUNE 11, SO THAT ALL I HAVE DEMANDED OF YOU FOR THE PAST FIVE WEEKS CAN BE LAID ASIDE IF IT IS AN OBSTACLE TO UNITY." THIS IS OF COURSE AN AMBIGUOUS POSITION CONSIDERING THE CALVACADE TO EGYPT, AND COULD BE EQUALLY INTERPRETED "I AM KEEPING THE HEAT ON YOU UNTIL YOU MEET MY DEMANDS," PRESUMABLY FULL UNITY AND A SUITABLE POSITION FOR QADHAFI IN THE NEW GOVT.

4. EGYPTIAN CHARGE ALSO OBSERVED THAT IN ABSENCE OF QADHAFI NO ONE IN RCC ASSUMES THE CHAIR. HE MAINTAINED IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER HE WAS ABSENT OR PRESENT: OTHER RCC MEMBERS ARE "ALL BEHIND HIM" (AN EXAGGERATION, BUT NO DOUBT ONE MEASURE OF THE EGYPTIAN DILEMMA, AS PERCEIVED, TO DATE BUT MAYBE NOT MUCH LONGER).

5. FURTHER COMMENT: IT STRIKES ME AS POSSIBLY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE GOE RUSHED QADHAFI'S JULY 20 REPLY INTO PRINT, WHETHER OR NOT HE ASKED FOR IT TO BE BROADCAST (SOMETHING NOT APPARENT IN THE TEXT, AS THE EGYPTIAN CHARGE WAS CLAIMING LAST NIGHT). THE GOE MAY HAVE THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP CONTROL THE MOTORCADE, WHICH IS A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00955 211133Z

DUBIOUS POSSIBILITY, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CHARACTERISTIC, I SHOULD THINK, TO SUPPRESS THE PUBLICATION OF HIS RESIGNATION IN THE INTEREST OF EVENTUALLY ACHIEVING A RECONCILIATION WITH QADHAFI.

6. JULY 21 TRIPOLI IS ABNORMAL, WITH SHOPS CLOSED IN MANY AREAS AND DEMONSTRATIONS FORMING UP AND MARCHING OFF

DEMANDING THAT QADHAFI WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION (PER RCC REQUEST, AS CARRIED ON LOCAL MEDIA). THERE IS AS YET NO VISIBLE ANTI-FOREIGN ANGLE TO THIS CAMPAIGN, AND IN FACT ONE GROUP FORMED UP ALONGSIDE THIS EMBASSY AND MARCHED OFF TANGENTIALLY.

JOSIF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1973
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL00955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730765/aaaajyis.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980311
Subject: TRIPOLI STATUS REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005